

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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SUBJ: COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

1. THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (IGC) INTO THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMS (CFA) AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, IS, IN WFP'S INTERPRETATION, AN ACCOMPLISHED FACT AS OF JANUARY 1. THE COMPOSITION OF CFA, WITH 30 MEMBERS AS AGAINST 24 IN THE IGC, IS NOW ESTABLISHED EXCEPT FOR ONE SEAT.

2. AS THE TERMS EXPIRED DECEMBER 31, 1975, FOR THREE MEMBERS OF THE IGC ELECTED BY ECOSOC AND THREE BY THE FAO COUNCIL, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR EACH BODY TO RE-ELECT OR CHOOSE REPLACEMENTS FOR THREE AND ELECT THREE NEW MEMBERS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP FROM 24 TO 30. THE COUNCIL ELECTED ALL SIX MEMBERS AT ITS FALL SESSION; ECOSOC ONLY TWO. ECOSOC NOW HAS ELECTED AN ADDITIONAL THREE, AND HAS PUT OFF UNTIL ITS MARCH MEETING THE ELECTION OF THE FINAL MEMBER, FOR THE SEAT PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED BY SUDAN. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT IT IS TO BE FILLED BY AN AFRICAN.

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3. ECOSOC ELECTED ARGENTINA, PHILIPPINES AND BELGIUM FOR ONE, TWO

AND THREE YEARS RESPECTIVELY. THUS ARGENTINA, WHICH HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF IGC ELECTED BY FAO COUNCIL (BUT FAILED IN RE-ELECTION BID) REMAINS ON THE GOVERNING BOARD. DENMARK HAS REPLACED NORWAY; BELGIUM AND THE PHILIPPINES HAVE BEEN ADDED. BRAZIL, CONGO, UGANDA, NICARAGUA AND AUSTRALIA HAVE BEEN ADDED BY THE FAO COUNCIL, WITH TUNISIA AND ARGENTINA (SIC) DROPPING OFF.

4. THE RELATIVE POSITION OF THE MAJOR TRADING COUNTRIES IS INCREASED STATISTICALLY WITH THE ADDITION OF BRAZIL AND AUSTRALIA BUT NEITHER HAD BEEN INVOLVED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE WFP. POTENTIAL RECIPIENTS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED IN TERMS OF VOICES BUT NOT OF MAJOR RECEIVERS OF SUPPLIES. THE RAL SHIFT, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, IS IN THE DIRECTION OF MORE WEIGHT TO THE GROUP OF 77 -- FIVE OF THE SEVEN NEW FACES. THE REGIONAL IMBALANCE (LATIN AMERICA WAS UNDER-REPRESENTED AND OCEANIA UNREPRESENTED) HAS BEEN CORRECTED BY THE ADDITION OF BRAZIL, NICARAGUA AND AUSTRALIA. AFRICA ALSO GAINS BY TWO VOICES, ONE OUTRIGHT AND ONE AS A REPLACEMENT FOR TUNISIA, BUT THE STRIDENCY FACTOR MAY WELL INCREASE MORE THAN PROPORTIONALLY. EUROPE GAINED ONE SEAT (BELGIUM) AS DID EAST ASIA (PHILIPPINES). EUROPE, HOWEVER, HAS THE HIGHEST REGIONAL REPRESENTATION--NINE INCLUDING TWO NORDICS AND EXCLUDING HUNGARY WHICH IS THE ONLY EASTERN BLOC MEMBER. AFRICA HAS SIX SEATS, LATIN AMERICA FOUR. THE MIDDLE EAST, POSSIBLY UNDERREPRESENTED, NOW HAS TWO.

5. IN TERMS OF " PARENT BODY" THE HONORS ARE ROUGHLY IN BALANCE ALTHOUGH IT FALLS TO FAO TO ELECT THE U.S., CANADA AND AUSTRALIA. EUROPE IS SPLIT 4-4 WITH BOTH NORDICS ELECTED IN ECOSOC, AS IS HUNGARY. AFRICA IS SPLIT 3-3, LATIN AMERICA 2-2, MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA EACH 1-1 AND EAST ASIA 2 ECOSOC (JAPAN, PHILIPPINES) AND ONE FAO (INDONESIA).

6. ELECTIONS THIS YEAR FOR SEATS EXPIRING END DECEMBER (FIVE FOR EACH BODY) DO NOT AT THIS JUNCTURE APPEAR TO PRESENT SIGNIFICANT ISSUES ALTHOUGH FOR FAO THREE EUROPEAN TERMS (GERMANY, FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND) EXPIRE, WITH ONLY ONE EACH FOR AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA; FOR ECOSOC TWO EUROPEAN (IRELAND, UK) AND TWO LATIN, WITH ONLY ONE AFRICAN. IT IS NOT UNLIKELY THAT SOME OF THE MORE RADICAL MEMBERS OF 77 WOULD FIND HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS IN THESE EQUATIONS.VOLPE

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